

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11-14, 16 and 17 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

1. (Currently Amended) A printing system for printing a document, said printing system comprising:

a job preparation station, including ~~a processor and processor,~~ a memory, and a user interface, said job preparation station configured at least to:

~~generating a flag~~ generate flags stored in the memory for each of a plurality of pages in a document to be printed, the flags being generated in response to first inputs received from the user interface, the first inputs specifying that selected pages in the document include tabs, the flags indicating that a selected page ~~the selected pages in a document to be printed contains a tab~~ the document contain the tabs, and said job preparation station including an input device for a user to input the marker and information to be rendered on said tab

store specified characters for each of the selected pages to be rendered on the tabs, the specified characters for each of the selected pages being stored in the memory in a non-image format and being stored in response to second inputs received from the user interface, and

store, on a plurality-of-page basis, global tab stock data in the memory identifying the tab stock to be used for printing all of the selected pages, the global tab stock data being stored in response to a third input received from the user interface; and

a print output module that receives the flags, flag and information specified characters to be rendered on said ~~tab~~ tabs, and the global tab stock data from the job preparation station and prints ~~said information~~ the specified characters on said tab the tabs of the specified pages of the identified tab stock.

2. (Currently Amended) The printing system of claim 1 wherein the tab flag and tab information each of the flags and the specified characters for each of the selected pages are stored as objects.

3. (Original) The printing system of claim 2 wherein said objects are page objects.

4. (Original) The printing system of claim 3 wherein said objects comprise PDF objects.

5. (Original) The printing system of claim 1 wherein a tab sheet is created as an additional page to the document.

6. (Currently Amended) A printing system for printing a document, said printing system comprising:

~~a stock input source containing a set of tab stock comprising a plurality of tab stock sheets having tabs at different locations;~~

a job preparation station, including a processor and a memory, said job preparation station generating a flag stored in the memory indicating that a selected page in a document to be printed ~~contains~~ includes a tab;

a user interface including an input device for a user to ~~input the marker~~ specify the selected page and tab label information to be rendered on said tab and to allow ~~a user~~ the user to select a specific tab stock to be used for all pages having tabs in the document, the tab label information being entered independent of the ~~tab~~ specific tab stock, and the selected specific tab stock being stored in the memory on a plurality-of-page basis, wherein the processor creates an additional page to the document as a tab sheet, and the tab sheet contains the tab label information and the location of the tab in the tab set based on the order of the tabs in the set; and

a print output module that receives the ~~flag~~ flag and the tab label information to be rendered on said tab and prints said tab label information on said tab of the selected page of the specific tab stock,

wherein the specified characters for each of the selected pages are stored in a non-image format.

7. (Currently Amended) The printing system of claim 6 wherein the ~~tab~~ flag and the tab label information are stored as objects.

8. (Original) The printing system of claim 7 wherein said objects are page objects.

9. (Original) The printing system of claim 8 wherein said objects comprise PDF objects.

10. (Original) The printing system of claim 6 wherein a tab sheet is created as an additional page to the document.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of printing a document on a printing system including a print output module, said method comprising:

~~generating a flag indicating that a selected page in a document to be printed contains a tab;~~

generating flags stored in a first memory region for each of a plurality of pages in a document to be printed, the flags indicating that selected pages in a document to be printed include tabs;

~~inputting a marker and information to be rendered on said tab into the printing system; and~~

storing specified characters for each of the selected pages to be rendered on the tabs, the specified characters for each of the selected pages being stored in a second memory region in a non-image format; and

~~using the flag and information to be rendered on said tab to print said information on said tab on a print output module; and~~

storing, on a plurality-of-page basis in a third memory region, global tab stock data identifying tab stock to be used for printing all of the selected pages; and

~~using said print output module to print said information to be rendered on said tab on tab stock~~

printing the specified characters on the tabs of the selected pages of the specified tab stock, based at least upon the flags, the specified characters for each of the selected pages, and the stored global tab stock data.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 ~~further comprising storing the tab flag and tab information~~ wherein each of the flags and the specified characters for each of the selected pages are stored as objects.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 11 wherein ~~said step of storing comprises storing objects are~~ each of the flags and the specified characters for each of the selected pages are stored as page objects.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 13~~ claim 11 wherein ~~said step of storing objects as page objects comprises storing objects~~ each of the flags and the specified characters for each of the selected pages are stored as PDF objects.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising creating a tab sheet as an additional page to the document.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for printing a document on a printing system including a print output module, said method comprising:

~~providing a set of tab stock comprising a plurality of tab stock sheets having tabs at different locations;~~

~~generating a flag indicating that a selected page in a document to be printed contains a tab;~~

~~at a user interface inputting a marker and information to be rendered on said tab into the printing system;~~

~~using the flag and information to be rendered on said tab to print said information on said tab on a print output module;~~

~~selecting a specific tab stock to be used in the document, the tab label information being entered independent of the tab specific tab stock selection;~~

~~creating a tab sheet as an additional page to the document, the tab sheet containing the tab label information and the location of the tab in the tab set based on the order of the tabs in the set; and~~

~~using the print output module to receive the flag and information to be rendered on said tab and print said information on said tab~~

receiving tab label information to be rendered on said tab;  
receiving information specifying a specific tab stock to be used for  
all pages having tabs in the document, the tab label information being received  
independent of the specific tab stock, and the selected specific tab stock being  
stored in the memory on a plurality-of-page basis;  
printing the tab label information on the tab of the selected page of  
the specific tab stock, based at least upon the flag, the tab label information, and  
information specifying the specific tab stock,  
wherein the specified characters for each of the selected pages are  
stored in a memory in a non-image format.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising storing the ~~tab~~ flag and tab information as objects.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said step of storing comprises storing objects are page objects.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said step of storing objects as page objects comprises storing objects as PDF objects.